

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~OLL 84-4626
20 November 1984

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Pre-trip Briefing on South Asia for Senators Nunn,
Glenn, and Johnston

1. On 20 November 1984, Senators Sam Nunn (D., GA), John Glenn (D., OH), and J. Bennett Johnston (D., LA) were briefed on key issues in South Asia by Directorate of Intelligence (DI) analysts. The briefing was in preparation for a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) visit to Pakistan, India and Nepal from 26 November to 5 December 1984. The DI portion of the briefing took place in 7C42 Headquarters from 0930-1115 following a brief private meeting between the Senators and the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) in his office. The DI briefers were:

25X1 [redacted] Chief/South Asia Division/Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis

25X1 [redacted] Analyst/Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis

25X1 [redacted] Analyst/Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis

25X1 [redacted] Branch Chief/Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis

25X1 [redacted] Branch Chief, Nuclear Energy Division, Office of Scientific and Weapons Research

25X1 [redacted] Analyst/Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis

25X1 [redacted], Analyst/Office of Near Eastern and South Asian Analysis

David Low, The National Intelligence Officer for Nuclear Proliferation also participated. In addition to the Senators, the following Congressional staffers attended:

Arnold Punaro, Staff Director for the Minority, Senate Armed Services Committee

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Frank Sullivan, Staff Director for the Minority, Senate Appropriations Committee

Leonard Weiss, Staff Director for the Minority, Subcommittee on Energy, Nuclear Proliferation and Government Processes, Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs

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2. The DI briefing began with a regional overview by [redacted] He discussed the political impact of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination on 31 October 1984. The killing followed months and even years of dissension between the Indian government and the Sikh minority which came to a head with the Indian army's assault on the Sikh's Golden Temple in Punjab State in June 1984. The assassination by Sikh dissidents has heightened tension between Hindus and Sikhs, giving the new prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, an increasingly difficult communal problem.

[redacted] indicated that Rajiv appears to be moving ahead with decisiveness to try to restore normalcy to the uneasy domestic situation and to establish a more even-handed, nonaligned foreign policy. [redacted]

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3. [redacted] expanded on India's domestic political situation, including plans for national elections which are slated for 24 December 1984. She responded to a question about the extent of our knowledge about the details of the

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4. [redacted] discussed the expectation that President Zia will hold long-awaited national elections in Pakistan in March 1985. There was also consideration of Pakistan's foreign policy concerns, particularly that of maintaining strong US support, improving relations with India, and resisting Soviet pressure for lessened support to Afghan insurgents. [redacted]

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5. An update on nuclear programs in India and Pakistan was presented by [redacted] with additional comments by Mr. Low. They discussed the steady and determined Pakistani effort over the last decade to achieve a nuclear capability. The Senators asked questions about Pakistan's suppliers of nuclear equipment and expertise including the much-publicized Chinese role. Mr. Low emphasized President Zia's realization that he could jeopardize US support for Pakistan by conducting a nuclear test and observed that Zia would probably exert great caution but continue to develop

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Pakistan's nuclear capability. Progress in India's program was also discussed along with the observation that great secrecy surrounds Indian nuclear developments and planning, particularly with regard to the possible acquisition of nuclear weapons.

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6. The DI portion of the briefing concluded with an overview of the Soviet armed struggle against insurgents in Afghanistan. [redacted] described Soviet military strategy and tactics which have not proved effective in curbing growth of the insurgency. He indicated the Soviets nonetheless appear resigned to a long-term effort to subjugate Afghanistan. The Senators asked questions about the durability of the insurgents and their needs for additional arms and other materiel. Following this discussion, the briefing was turned over to representatives

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